1. Factor which selectively interacts with a PrPSc but not with PrPc.

2. Factor according to claim 1 which is selected from plasminogen, fragments of plasminogen and derivatives thereof.

3. Factor according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that it interacts with the carboxy terminus of PrPSc.

4. Factor according to any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it is capable of interacting with PrPSc of different species.

5. Composition comprising a PrPSc and a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4.

6. Composition according to claim 5, wherein PrPSc is bound to the factor.

7. Composition according to claim 6, wherein PrPSc is noncovalently bound to the factor.

8. A carrier comprising a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4 and/or a composition according to any of claims 5 to 7.

9. Carrier according to claim 8 which is selected from magnetic beads, filter stripes, microtiter plates, non-magnetic

beads, plasmon surface resonance plates, microarray plates, liquid carriers undergoing phase transition to solid, and combination thereof.

10. Ligand which specifically interacts with a composition according to any of claims 5 to 7.

11. Diagnostic kits containing a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4 and/or a composition according to any of claims 5 to 7 and/or a carrier according to any of claims 8 and 9 and/or a ligand according to claim 10, optionally together with further components such as buffers, reagents for the detection and working instructions.

12. Pharmaceutical composition comprising a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4 and/or a ligand according to claim 10.

13. A process for detecting a PrPSc in a sample, characterized in that the sample is contacted with a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4 and/or a carrier according to claims 8 or 9 and/or a ligand according to claim 10.

14. A process for removing PrPSc from biological material, comprising the step of contacting the material with a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4 and/or a carrier according to any of claims 8 or 9 and/or a ligand according to claim 10.

15. Method for diagnosing human transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and prion encephalopathies of animals, characterized in that the material of the organism to be tested in brought into contact with a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4 and/or a carrier according to any of claims 8 to 9 and/or a ligand according to claim 10.

16. Use of a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4 and/or a composition according to any of claims 5 to 7 and/or a carrier according to any of claims 8 or 9 and/or a ligand according to claim 10 for the diagnosis of human transmissible spongiform encephalopathies or prion encephalopathies of animals.

17. Use of a factor according to any of claims 1 to 4 and/or a composition according to any of claims 5 to 7 and/or a carrier according to any of claims 8 or 9 and/or a ligand according to claim 10 for removing PrPSc from and/or inactivating PrPc in a biological material.